REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicant would like to acknowledge, with thanks, the Office Action mailed November 1, 2004. This amendment and response is responsive to the Office Action dated November 1, 2004. Accordingly, claims 1-47 have been cancelled and claims 48-60 have been added. No new matter has been inserted into claims 48-60 as the elements are described in Figures 1 and 2 of the original specification.

In the last Office Action, the Examiner objected to several claims due to informalities. Applicant has cancelled those claims which should render the objections moot.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Claims 1, 2, 22, 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,516,352 to Booth et al. (hereinafter Booth). Claims 4-21 and 25-47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious based on the combination of Booth and U.S. Patent No. 6,388,591 to Ng (hereinafter Ng). These claims have been cancelled, claims 48-60 have been added.

The present invention, as now claimed in claims 48-60, is directed to a universal interface and recites that the transmit control register and output interface (claim 48) or the input module interface logic (claim 55) receive a signal from the transceiver that is indicative of the type of transceiver coupled to the module, and that the module formats (or de-formats) data accordingly. By contrast, Booth is for a network interface card that has one input, and two outputs. The control unit in Booth merely acts as a switch and selects the output, and as a consequence, must know the type of output being selected in advance, as opposed to the claims of the present invention which receives a signal from the transceiver indicating what type of transceiver is coupled to the module that the module is coupled to and formats the data accordingly.

Booth is directed to a network interface card to provide two or more links between a computer system and a network (col. 10, lines 53-54). The network interface card (NIC) which is configured to dynamically switch between a first physical layer device (first PHY) and a

second physical layer device (second PHY) in establishing a network link (col. 6, lines 29-34). Switching may occur between physical layer devices if an active link is determined to be down or unreliable (col. 6, lines 37-391 col. 9, lines 62-64).

The first PHY is coupled to a medium (such as fiber-optic cable) that requires a continuous connection (col. 6, lines 41-42). The second PHY is coupled to a second transmission medium (such as copper cable) that does not require a continuous connection (Abstract). The network interface card includes a link switching unit, a physical layer interface unit and a control unit (Abstract). The control unit generates a select signal indicating which physical layer device is currently selected (*Id.; cf.* col. 6, lines 53-55). Accordingly, the link switching unit couples the currently selected PHY as determined by switch signal 544 (which is dependent on signal 505 received from control unit 500) to physical interface unit 412 (col. 15, lines 2-4). When control unit 500 in Booth receives PHY input data from bus 214, this data is conveyed on bus 502 to both sub-layer 514 and sub-layer 516 (col. 14, lines 8-10). The present invention does not send data to two separate sub-layers and select the sub-layer via a multiplexer.

Similarly, signals from link switch unit 420 are sent via bus 522 to both sub-layers 514, 516, and multiplexer 512A determines which sub-layer's output is forwarded to control unit 500. Whereas the present invention only has one sub-layer and sends the signal from the sub-layer to the interface module (output or input).

The aforementioned deficiencies in Booth are not remedied by any teaching of Ng. The Examiner relies on NG for disclosing utilization of LVDS would result in reduced power consumption and that a mapping function for an LVDS signal is not required and the information is encoded and directly input to the physical interface.

Claims 49-54 and 56-60 directly depend from claims 48 and 55 respectively. Therefore, for reasons already set forth for claims 48 and 55, claims 49-54 and 56-60 are in condition of allowance over the cited prior art.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, claims 48-60 are patentable over the cited prior art. If there are any fees necessitated by the foregoing communication, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0902, referencing our Docket No. 71795/10728.

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Respectfully submitted,

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